



## The origin of Hip Hop

In the 1970s, an underground urban movement known as "hip hop" started to develop in the ruins of a post-industrial and ravaged South Bronx, New York City. Hip Hop is defined by four stylistic elements: MCing/rapping, DJing/scratching, breakdancing, and graffiti writing.

Hip hop music has been a powerful medium for protesting the impact of legal institutions on Black and Hispanic minorities, particularly police and prisons.

Jamaican-born DJ Clive "Kool Herc" Campbell was the first to use DJing percussion "breaks" in hip hop music. Beginning at Herc's home in an apartment at 1520 Sedgwick Avenue, the movement later spread across the entire borough.

On August 11, 1973 DJ Kool Herc was the DJ at his sister's back-to-school party. He extended the percussion "breaks" on records by using two turntables. Herc's experiments with making music with turntables became what we now know as breaking or "scratching." He called his dancers "break-boys" and "break-girls," or simply b-boys and b-girls. Breakdancing is a style of dancing that includes gymnastic moves, head spins, and backspins. According to Herc, "breaking" was also street slang for "getting excited" and "acting energetically"

A second key musical element in hip hop music is MCing or rapping. The role of the MC originally was as a Master of Ceremonies for a DJ dance event organized for the neighborhood called « block-party ». The MC would introduce the DJ and try to pump up the audience. The MC spoke between the DJ's songs, urging everyone to get up and dance.

By 1979 hip hop music had become a mainstream genre.

*Adapted from [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hip\\_hop#1970s](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hip_hop#1970s)*